REMARKS

Claims 3, 8 and 13 are currently objected due to informalities. Claims 1-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,745,382 issued to Zothner (herein *Zothner*). Claims 1, 4-11 and 14-15 have been amended, and claims 16-19 have been added. Therefore, claims 1-19 are pending. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks.

Objection of Claims 3, 8 and 13 for Informalities

Claims 3, 8 and 13 are currently objected to per the office action's request that the word "RETE" be spelled out. However, applicants submit that RETE is not an acronym, and that one of ordinary skill in the art would recognize the term and its meaning. Rete is the Latin word for "net" and the RETE algorithm is a well-known pattern-matching algorithm for rule-based systems. As such, applicants respectfully request the objection of the claims be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejection of Claims 1-15

Currently claims 1-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C §102(e) as being anticipated by *Zothner*. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection as set forth below.

Claim 1 discloses a generic rule engine framework for a computer system comprising:

> a rule engine, said rule engine being capable of applying a rule against an object upon an occurrence of an event within said object;
> *a debugging interface, said debugging interface being capable of*
> *detecting events from said object and reporting said events to said rule engine;*

an event handler thread, said event handler thread being capable of obtaining said event through said debugging interface and providing said event to said rule engine.

Method claim 6, system claim 11 and newly added machine-accessible medium claim 16 recite similar limitations.

The *Zothner* reference discloses a method of providing CORBA wrappers for rules automation technology. The office action has cited *Zothner's* disclosure of a Java ruleset class and rules package as teaching the limitations of a debugging interface (Column 11, Lines 21-35). However, the Java ruleset class is simply responsible for management of rules. The Sun Microsystems Java library defines the ruleset class as "a set of rules, implemented straightforwardly as an arbitrary-length array of rules." Thus, the cited reference does not disclose a debugging interface as set forth in claims 1, 6, 11 and 16. Thus, claims 1, 6, 11 and 16 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. §102 over *Zothner*.

Claims 2-5, 7-10, 12-15 and 17-19 depend from claims 1, 6, 11 and 19. In addition to any independent basis for patentability, claims 2-5, 7-10, 12-15 and 17-19 are patentable over the cited references by virtue of at least such dependency. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the §102(e) rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that for at least the foregoing reasons, all rejections have been overcome. Applicant submits all claims are now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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